

Rigger Responsibilities, Qualifications, and Training

A qualified rigger is essential for the safety and efficiency of lifting operations. WorkSafeBC states “rigging and slinging work must be done by or under the direct supervision of qualified workers familiar with the rigging to be used and with the code of signals authorized by the Board for controlling hoisting operations.”

Key Responsibilities of a Qualified Rigger

- **Load Assessment:** Determine the load's weight and centre of gravity. Identify appropriate lifting points.
- **Equipment Selection:** Choose suitable rigging and other hardware. Ensure the equipment's Working Load Limit (WLL) is appropriate and considers sling angles.
- **Inspection:** Thoroughly inspect all rigging equipment before use for signs of wear, damage, or defects. Remove any defective equipment from service immediately and document in a rigging log.
- **Rigging Practices:** Apply correct rigging techniques to ensure load stability and balance. Use appropriate hitches and knots as required. Protect rigging from sharp edges when necessary.
- **Communication:** Maintain clear communication with the crane operator and other team members using standard hand signals or other approved communication devices.
- **Environmental Awareness:** Identify and handle hazards in the surrounding area including power lines, inclement weather and unstable ground.

Qualifications and Training:

- Riggers should possess extensive knowledge of rigging equipment, inspection and rejection criteria, load dynamics, and safety protocols. They should understand the structural limitations of loads and the surrounding areas.
- Ensure training provided to riggers is thorough and comprehensive to rigging fundamentals, including a mix of theory and practical components to maximize knowledge.
- Riggers should stay updated with the latest rigging techniques, equipment and safety regulations through ongoing training and education.

Best Practices

- Always perform a pre-use inspection of all rigging equipment.
- Ensure the load is properly balanced and secured before lifting.
- Know the weight of the load and never exceed the rated capacity of any equipment.
- Use tag lines or other means to control hazardous movement or assist with positioning a load.
- Never stand or walk under a suspended load.
- Follow the crane operator's instructions and established signals.
- Report any damaged rigging equipment immediately and remove it from service.

References: OHSR Sections [15.2](#), [15.4](#), [15.5](#)

Project: Address:

Employer: Supervisor:

Date: Time: Shift:

Number in crew: Number attending:

Other safety concerns or suggestions:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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2.		
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Manager's remarks:

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Manager: Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

For more information on health and safety requirements for crane operations in BC, refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation at worksafebc.com.